

# The Contextuality of Urban Park Facilities in Indonesia: A Systematic Review of Social Aspect Identification

Original Article

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## Abstract

In Indonesia, urban parks face serious challenges in the form of declining functionality due to limited maintenance, changing community needs and a lack of fit with the local context. Parks intended for social interaction, recreation and improving environmental quality often lose their appeal because their facilities cannot meet users' needs. Consequently, many parks have become passive spaces or have been abandoned. This study aims to systematically review the social aspects of urban park facilities in Indonesia through a systematic literature review of various empirical and theoretical studies. The analysis involves examining scientific publications, research reports, and policy documents that discuss the relationship between park facilities, user characteristics, and social behavior. The review focuses on aligning park facilities with the characteristics, behaviors, and needs of the community to support the social sustainability of public spaces. The findings show that the quality of urban parks is determined by five main social aspects: the user's sense of ownership, sense of peace, social satisfaction, local community activities and the social behavior of users. These five aspects complement each other in shaping the experience of the space. Contextual facilities are able to foster emotional bonds, create peace, increase collective satisfaction and encourage community participation. Therefore, context-based urban park planning strengthens ecological functions and ensures that public spaces remain adaptive, inclusive and meaningful to the community amidst ever-evolving urban dynamics.

**Keywords:** Contextually, Local Communities, Park Facilities, Systematic Literature Review, Social Aspects, Urban Park.

## 1. Introduction

Urban parks are a type of public space that plays a strategic role in urban society. In addition to being an aesthetic element of the city, parks function as a means of recreation as well as a space for social interaction that supports community formation and community quality of life (Asmuliyan & Amalia, 2024; Astiandi & Hidayah, 2024). The existence of urban parks also contributes to the physical and mental health of users through the experience of comfortable, green, and soothing spaces (Fithri et al., 2021; Jin et al., 2024). In the context of Indonesia's increasingly rapid urbanization, the need for inclusive and quality public spaces is becoming increasingly urgent (Akbar et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2025). However, various studies show that many urban parks actually experience a decline in function due to facility degradation, low community participation, and weak management strategies, so that they no longer provide optimal social and environmental benefits (Aguspriyanti et al., 2024; Ayuni & Syafitri, 2024; Gabriella & Herlambang, 2023).



Some urban parks in Indonesia show symptoms of functional degradation that lead to a loss of vitality of public spaces. A study at Bali Festival Park Denpasar shows that historical parks are now passive spaces with no meaningful public activities (Sumawati et al., 2021). Similar conditions were found in Taman Gajah Mada Batam, where design incompatibility with user behavior led to a decrease in the intensity of visits (Aguspriyanti et al., 2024), as well as in Taman Lili Suheri Medan which was degraded due to weak supporting facilities and governance (Wisdianti et al., 2023). Even in urban centers such as Sumenep Park in Central Jakarta, the function of parks has shifted to transit spaces due to a lack of integration in planning (Gabriella & Herlambang, 2023). This phenomenon highlights a significant research gap regarding how contextuality and the quality of urban park facilities influence their social and functional sustainability. Understanding the interplay between design, social, and behavioral factors is therefore essential to developing more resilient and context-responsive public spaces amid the rapidly evolving dynamics of urbanization.

This research is expected to make an important contribution to our understanding of the dynamics of the relationship between urban park facilities and the social conditions of urban communities, particularly with regard to how urban parks are designed and utilised. By identifying relevant previous studies, this study aims to answer the following research question: 'What social factors are of concern in the context of urban park facilities, according to the latest literature?'. The results of this research are expected to be the basis for the development of a strategy for designing and managing urban parks that are more inclusive, adaptive, and sustainable in supporting social cohesion and community quality of life.

## 2. Literature Review

The theory of placemaking emphasises the importance of designing public spaces that are physically functional and rooted in the local identity, values, and socio-cultural dynamics. The environmental context such as physical, social, cultural and ecological are considered essential in creating meaningful spatial experiences. Therefore, placemaking is not only a design approach, but also a social strategy that fosters a sense of connection between people and the spaces they inhabit (Hardi & Pramitasari, 2023; Suharthadana & Marcillia, 2021).

According to the Project for Public Spaces (2020), the success of a public space can be measured by four main aspects: social, comfort and aesthetics, function and culture, and accessibility. The social dimension reflects the extent to which space encourages social interaction and community participation. Comfort and aesthetics are related to the sense of security, cleanliness, as well as aesthetic impressions that create a positive perception. The functions and culture aspect considers the variety of activities and amenities offered by the space, while the accessibility aspect emphasises the importance of connectivity and ease of access to and from public spaces (Akbar et al., 2023; Hardi & Pramitasari, 2023; Yogarsiwayan et al., 2022).

Studies in China show that the success of urban parks depends on a balance between the physical aspects and the social experience of users, where visual and auditory elements play an important role in shaping emotional responses as well as a sense of attachment to space (Jin et al., 2024). Research in Kaiyuan, Yunnan Province, emphasizes the importance of community participation in the co-construction process of urban parks as an effort to create sustainable and inclusive designs for local communities (Wu et al., 2025). Furthermore, Zou (2025) highlights how urban park design in developing countries needs to pay attention to the dimension of environmental perception to improve welfare and social inclusion, especially for vulnerable groups. This perspective is in line with the placemaking approach that places public

space as a forum for social interaction as well as a medium for the formation of collective identity. In this context, the success of urban parks is determined not only by physical and aesthetic qualities, but also by the extent to which they are able to facilitate social participation, accommodate cultural diversity, and foster a sense of belonging to the community towards its environment (Wu et al., 2025; Zou, 2025).

### **2.1. Inequality in the Availability and Need of Urban Parks in Indonesia**

The disparity between the need for and availability of urban parks in Indonesia indicates a serious shortfall in the provision of urban green open spaces. Despite the minimum RTH standard, many cities have been unable to achieve it. In Jakarta, for example, urban parks only cover a small proportion of the ideal area required based on population and total area (Filifin et al., 2023). Similar conditions can be seen in Tangerang, where population growth and land conversion have resulted in significant deficits (Quistarini et al., 2019), and in Jambi, where park limitations are both quantitative and distributional, resulting in uneven community access (Sriui et al., 2019). In Sidoarjo, the number of city parks does not even reach half of what is needed (Azra, 2024). This imbalance impacts the degradation of the physical environment, resulting in increased temperatures, pollution and reduced water infiltration. It also reduces residents' quality of life due to limited space for social interaction and recreation (Azra, 2024; Filifin et al., 2023; Quistarini et al., 2019; Sriui et al., 2019).

### **2.2. The Phenomenon of Abandoned City Parks in Indonesia**

Meanwhile, the phenomenon of abandoned city parks has emerged in various regions of Indonesia. Many public spaces that were previously designed for recreation, social interaction and improving environmental quality are now experiencing a decline in function due to a lack of maintenance and changes in community needs. They are also not adapted to the local context. Some parks have even become passive, unsafe spaces that are no longer attractive to residents. Despite its historical value and tourism potential, Bali Festival Park in Denpasar has long been neglected, becoming a dead space without public activities (Sumawati et al., 2021). A similar phenomenon was found in a study conducted at Taman Gajah Mada in Batam City, where the park became quiet and unusable due to design incompatibility with user behaviour (Aguspriyanti et al., 2024). The Lili Suheri Park area in Medan City was originally designed as a public space. However, it has also experienced functional degradation due to a lack of supporting facilities and weak governance planning (Wisdianti et al., 2023). Meanwhile, the study noted that Sumenep City Park in Central Jakarta was disconnected and had been transformed into a transit space solely due to a lack of integration in regional planning (Gabriella & Herlambang, 2023). Even parks with high ecological potential, such as Balekambang City Park in Surakarta, have experienced functional degradation after being revitalised due to inadequate follow-up maintenance and a lack of local community involvement in management (Sumarmi et al., 2022). Overall, the phenomenon of abandoned urban parks indicates an unsuccessful approach to presenting public spaces as part of a sustainable social and ecological infrastructure.

### **2.3. The Importance of Urban Park facilities**

Studies have confirmed that urban park facilities play an important role in determining people's interest in visiting, not only as a visual element, but also in determining the quality of the user experience. Research at Taman Jayawijaya in Mojosoongo, Surakarta, shows that positive perceptions and intention to revisit increase when the suitability of facilities matches the needs of visitors (Mintardjo, 2023). A similar thing was found at Ir. H. Djuanda Forest Park in Bandung, where tourist facilities significantly contribute to visitor satisfaction despite

limited management (Ridwan & Sukriadi, 2022). A study at Kediri Square highlights that children's play facilities and sports facilities have a greater impact on visitor interest than park benches or gazebos (Adkha & Setiawan, 2024). In the Bogor Botanical Garden, the availability of inclusive facilities such as comfortable pedestrian paths, disabled toilets, and tourist vehicles is a factor that is highly appreciated, especially by the elderly and people with disabilities (Batubara & Fitri, 2023). Overall, these findings suggest that the quality, comfort, and inclusivity of facilities determine the attractiveness of city parks and shape people's visitation preferences.

Recent studies have also confirmed that urban park facilities have a broader role in shaping visitors' behaviour and emotional responses, as well as providing comfort. The visual and acoustic elements of green open spaces have been shown to influence social behaviour and create positive emotional experiences. Therefore, facilities that support these aspects should be prioritised in garden planning (Jin et al., 2024). In addition, providing basic facilities such as seating and play areas has been shown to significantly increase public visits to city parks. This encourages more diverse social interactions and recreational activities (Pusparani et al., 2025).

Furthermore, the importance of facilities is also related to participatory development and management processes. Studies in Kaiyuan County demonstrate that involving the public in the design and construction of urban park facilities can result in more sustainable and community-specific designs, whilst fostering a stronger sense of belonging to these public spaces (Wu et al., 2025). On the other hand, an evaluation of walkability in urban areas, including urban parks, underscores that adequate pedestrian facilities, such as well-connected pedestrian paths, have a strategic role in improving the accessibility and the quality of the public space (Seanders et al., 2025). Thus, urban parks not only provide recreational facilities, but also play an important role in promoting social sustainability, community interaction and improving the quality of the urban environment.

### 3. Research Methodology

This research uses systematic literature review (SLR) method, which was chosen because it is considered the most appropriate to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the development of knowledge in a particular field of study. Unlike traditional literature reviews, which tend to be narrative and subjective, SLR allows researchers to map, evaluate, and synthesise findings from previous research in a structured, transparent, and critical manner (Snyder, 2019; Xiao & Watson, 2019). This method was selected to identify research patterns and trends, find knowledge gaps and provide direction for future studies. Thus, a systematic literature review (SLR) serves not only to summarise the results of existing research, but also to present a more in-depth, relevant and strategically valuable integration of knowledge to develop the field of study.

In addition, the use of SLR is important for ensuring the credibility, replicability and objectivity of research results. This is achieved through a well-documented process that can be reviewed by other researchers to minimise bias in data selection and interpretation (Page et al., 2021). The study's methodology is divided into four main stages: searching for data sources using targeted keyword strategies; collecting databases from reputable scientific repositories; applying inclusion and exclusion criteria to analyse only relevant literature; and assessing the quality of articles to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings. These stages are designed to ensure that the literature review process is systematic, transparent and scientifically accountable. Each of these stages is explained below.

### 3.1. Data Collection

Literature searches were conducted using major online databases relevant to the fields of architecture, urban planning and urban studies. A total of 196 papers were obtained from these databases. Following the multi-screening process, 193 articles remained for review. The main objective of this screening was to identify research that explored the contextuality of urban park facilities in social aspects. The following keywords used in database-wide search strategies are shown in the following table 1.

**Table 1. Keyword terms used in each search**

Keywords	Similar Keywords
Population	Urban communities, city park users, urban social groups, local communities
Intervention	Contextual garden facilities, social elements of the park, local needs-based design
Comparison	Standard garden facilities, garden without social approach, non-participatory design
Outcome	Social interaction, sense of belonging, comfort of space, social accessibility, social sustainability

Source: Author, 2025

In a systematic review, selecting the right combination of keywords is crucial because it directly affects the relevance and scope of articles obtained in the literature search. This is because different writers use different terms to describe similar topics. For example, not all articles use the same term to refer to urban park facilities or the social aspects of public spaces. The final keywords used in the literature search were arranged as follows:

**Table 2. Research Keywords Categorization**

Main Theme	Keywords in Indonesia	Keywords in English
Research Object	"Taman kota", "Taman publik", "Ruang terbuka hijau", "Ruang publik"	"City park", "Public park", "Green open space", "Public space"
Social Aspects	"Interaksi sosial", "Rasa memiliki", "Keterlibatan komunitas", "Persepsi pengguna", "Kebutuhan komunitas lokal"	"Social interaction", "Sense of belonging", "Community engagement", "User perception", "Local community needs"
Contextual Approach	"Desain kontekstual", "Fasilitas inklusif", "Aksesibilitas ruang publik"	"Contextual design", "Inclusive facilities", "Public space accessibility"

Source: Author, 2025

This keyword combination is designed to collect literature that discusses the linkages between urban park facilities, social functions, as well as contextual approaches in their design and management. The varied composition of the keywords, which range from terms referring to the research object (e.g. urban parks, public spaces, green open spaces) and social aspects (e.g. social interaction, sense of belonging, community involvement, user perception) to design and accessibility dimensions (e.g. contextual design, inclusive facilities, local community needs), provides a broader scope for capturing relevant publications. Using this strategy, researchers can ensure that the collected literature reviews not only the physical aspects of urban parks, but also their social, psychological and cultural dimensions.

Furthermore, the keyword combination approach is a systematic tool for directing the literature selection and screening process towards studies that align with the research

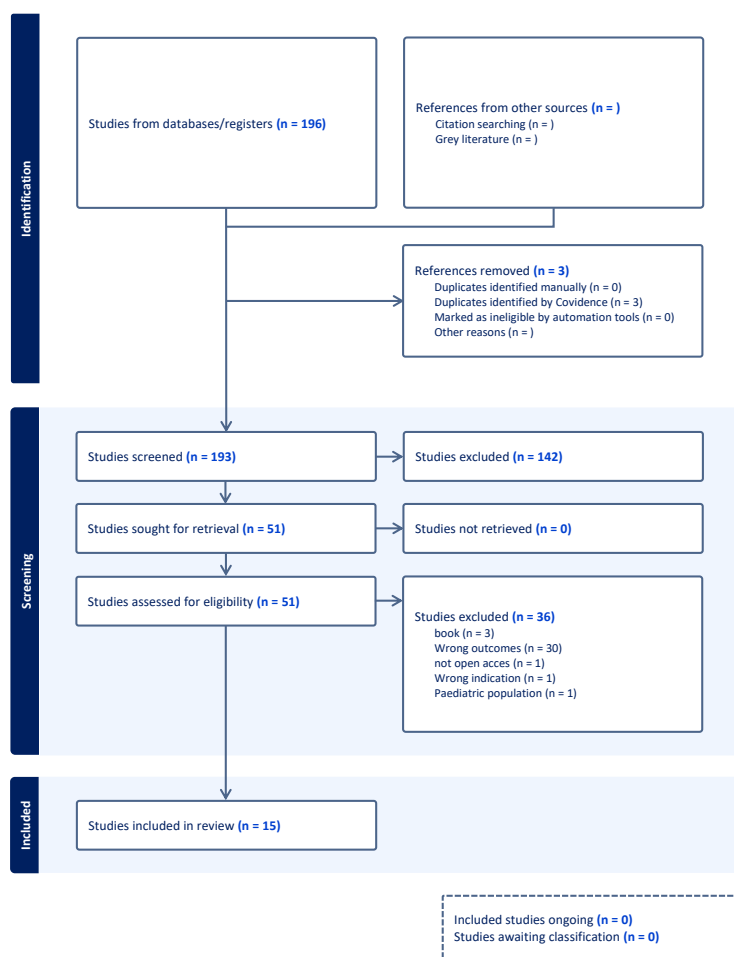
objectives. It also enables comprehensive mapping of the literature in terms of both the diversity of disciplines involved (e.g. architecture, urban planning, sociology and environmental psychology) and the range of issues studied. Thus, the literature search process is structured to obtain valid, credible and relevant sources, rather than being haphazard. The results are expected to present a richer, deeper synthesis of knowledge concerning the role of urban park facilities in supporting social interaction, fostering a sense of belonging and achieving social sustainability through contextual and inclusive design.

### 3.2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The selection process consists of two main stages: initial screening and feasibility assessment. At the initial screening stage, 142 articles were excluded because their titles and abstracts were not relevant to the focus of the study. Furthermore, 51 papers were selected for full-text assessment, all of which were successfully accessed.

Thirty-six studies were excluded at the feasibility assessment stage because they did not meet the inclusion criteria. Criteria for exclusion include:

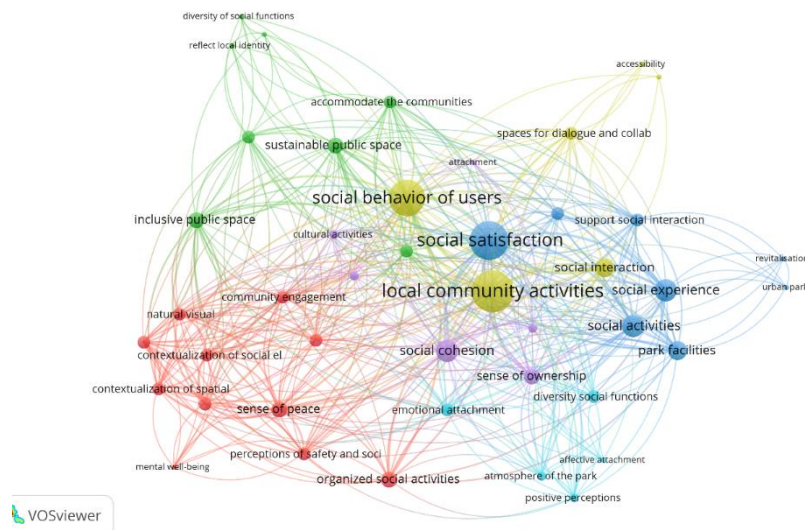
- 1) Irrelevant outcomes (wrong outcomes, n = 30),
- 2) Not open access articles (n = 1),
- 3) Wrong indication, n = 1),
- 4) Inappropriate population (children/paediatrics, n = 1), and
- 5) The type of document is in the form of a book, not a scientific journal article (n = 3)



28th June 2025



Figure 1. Quality assessment stage diagram



**Figure 2. Connectivity Between Keywords**

The keyword network visualisation illustrates the interrelationships between social behaviour, satisfaction and community activities in urban parks. The three largest nodes are social behaviour of users, social satisfaction and local community activities, highlighting the research focus on user interaction patterns, the degree of social fulfilment and the dynamics of local community engagement as the foundation of social sustainability. Additionally, the keywords 'sense of ownership' and 'sense of peace' occupy significant positions in the network, indicating that emotional attachment and psychological tranquility are equally important factors in evaluating the success of public spaces.

Each cluster on the map represents complementary conceptual dimensions in urban park and social sustainability studies. The green cluster encompasses themes such as sustainable public space, inclusive public space, and accommodate the communities, emphasizing the importance of sustainability, inclusiveness, and the capacity of public spaces to meet community needs. The blue cluster focuses on park facilities, social activities, social experience and interaction, thereby highlighting the connection between physical infrastructure and social interaction intensity and collective satisfaction. The red cluster reflects contextual and psychological dimensions, with dominant keywords such as sense of peace, emotional attachment, contextualization of spatial, and perceptions of safety and social well-being, pointing to the essential role of emotional experiences and perceptions of safety in shaping quality spaces.

Meanwhile, the yellow cluster emphasises accessibility and spaces for dialogue and collaboration, reinforcing the notion that ease of access and provisions for dialogue contribute to broader social participation across diverse groups. The dense interlinkages between the clusters suggest that none of the single dimension stands independently; instead, they form reciprocal relationships between physical, social, emotional, and contextual aspects. This indicates that the social sustainability of urban parks relies on a multidimensional integration—namely, the availability of facilities that foster interaction, the cultivation of a sense of ownership, the enhancement of psychological peace, and the creation of inclusive spatial connections. Consequently, the visualization underscores that a successful urban park is not merely defined by its physical attributes but also by its ability to embed social and emotional values for its communities.

## 4. Results and Discussion

This section presents the results of a systematic review of various scientific publications relevant to the research topic. As explained in the methodology section, this study aims to identify social factors that are of concern in the context of urban park facilities based on the latest literature review. The analysis was carried out by examining the suitability between the social functions of the park, user characteristics, and contextual approaches used in the design of public facilities.

The results of the selection show that a number of studies highlight various social issues related to the functioning of urban parks, such as social interaction, sense of belonging, community participation, user perception, and the needs of the local community. These findings are the basis for understanding how the contextuality of park facilities plays a role in shaping the social experience of users and supporting the sustainability of the function of public spaces.

### 4.1. Results

Results A total of 15 scientific articles was selected in this study based on inclusion criteria, which contained a discussion of the social function of city park facilities, using relevant primary or secondary data, and published in the range of 2020–2025.

**Table 3. Selected Scientific Article Details**

No	Constituent	Purpose	Method	Result
1	Asmuliany & Amalia (2024)	Analyzing the patterns of accessibility and community activities in the city park as a social space in Pakui Sayang Park, Makassar.	Qualitative case studies with observation of user activity and accessibility mapping.	The park functions as an active social space, but its accessibility is not even for all groups of people.
2	Astiandi & Hidayah (2024)	Evaluating the function of city parks in Bogor based on public perception of comfort and facilities.	Survey of public perception through structured questionnaires and descriptive statistical analysis.	Most people positively assess the function of the park, but there is a lack of facilities for the elderly and children.
3	Ayuni & Syafitri (2024)	Analyzing visitors' perception of the social function infrastructure in Samarendah Park.	Quantitative approach with questionnaire dissemination and correlation analysis.	Social facilities such as seating and play spaces support interaction, but are still lacking in terms of diversity of activities.
4	Aguspriyanti et al. (2024)	Formulating a revitalization strategy for Taman Gajah Mada with a behavioral architecture approach.	Behavior-based design approach with direct observation and activity mapping.	Revitalization is geared towards improving visitor comfort and engagement based on observed behavior patterns.
5	Astuti et al. (2025)	Examining the behavior of city park users in Blitar	Direct observation and interviews of park users.	It was found that there was a strong tendency for



No	Constituent	Purpose	Method	Result
		Regency to find out interaction patterns and activity preferences.		recreational and social activities in the afternoon, with the need to improve supporting facilities.
6	Fithri et al. (2021)	Exploring the experience of tranquility and peace felt by the local community in open public spaces in Medan.	Qualitative study with a case study approach on open public space.	Green open spaces support the psychological and social tranquility of local communities through design that takes into account the cultural context.
7	Hastita (2022)	Examining the socio-cultural function of green open space in Serpong District, South Tangerang City.	Mixed-method approach with field observation and community surveys.	Green open spaces play a role in maintaining cultural values and providing a space for community interaction.
8	Jin et al. (2024)	Examining the impact of visual and auditory elements of urban parks on human behavior and emotional responses.	Field experiments and quantitative surveys with emotional-response statistical analysis.	Visual elements such as vegetation and auditory elements, such as the sound of water, enhance the user's emotional comfort and attachment.
9	Khutami & Adharina (2024)	Analyzing the influence of social interaction on the satisfaction of using facilities at Taman Lapang Merdeka, Sukabumi.	Visitor surveys with correlation and regression analysis.	Social interaction plays a significant role in increasing visitor satisfaction with park facilities.
10	Oktavia et al. (2020)	Analyze social and psychological factors that affect the satisfaction of visitors to city parks and urban forest parks in DKI Jakarta.	Quantitative approach with surveys and factor analysis.	Factors of convenience, security, and social perception have a strong influence on user satisfaction.
11	Suciyani & Oktavia (2020)	Evaluating the social function of R.A. Kartini Park for the creative community in Cimahi City.	Descriptive qualitative study with participatory observation.	The park functions as a space for expression and interaction of the creative community even though it is limited in infrastructure.
12	Seanders et al. (2025)	Evaluating the walkability of low-emission areas in Jakarta Kota Tua through case studies	Survey and field observation methods related to pedestrian accessibility.	Walkability is influenced by the design of pedestrian paths and the presence of green

No	Constituent	Purpose	Method	Result
		in three locations including parks.		spaces, including parks.
13	Pusparani et al. (2025)	Analyze the influence of urban park facilities on the number of public visits.	Quantitative survey with simple regression statistical analysis.	The availability of complete facilities correlates with increased visits to city parks.
14	Wu et al. (2025)	Exploring public participation in the co-design of urban parks in Kaiyuan County, China.	Participatory case studies with interviews and observations of urban park projects.	Participatory design reinforces a sense of community and enhances the sustainability of garden design.
15	Zou (2025)	Examine the design of urban parks from the perspective of environmental perception to improve the welfare and social inclusion of vulnerable groups.	Qualitative analysis of literature studies and observations of inclusive landscape design.	Garden design that pays attention to environmental perception can improve emotional well-being and social inclusion.

Source: Data processed, 2025

Urban Park facilities are a tangible manifestation of the relationship between human beings, public spaces, and their social environment. In an urban context, the existence of an urban park not only fulfills an ecological and aesthetic function, but also reflects the social and cultural dynamics of the local community. The design of facilities such as pedestrian paths, seating areas, interaction spaces, and other landscape elements should be tailored to the needs, habits, and social values of the user community. This context shows the importance of a contextual approach in designing urban parks that are not only physically functional, but also socially meaningful.

Answering the research “What are the social aspect factors that are of concern in the contextuality of urban park facilities according to the latest literature review?”, it was found that the latest literature study highlights various factors from the social aspects that affect the relevance and function of urban park facilities. These factors include the user's sense of ownership of public space, the sense of peace felt while in the park, the level of social satisfaction with the available facilities, the role of the park as a forum for local community activities, and the social behavior of users in utilizing park space and facilities. These factors suggest that the contextuality of urban park facilities is largely determined by their suitability to the social dynamics and needs of the community of users. A summary of the findings of these factors in 15 articles has been studied is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4. Supporting Factors of Social Aspects in the Context of City Park Facilities**

Factor	Articles
A sense of ownership of the user,	3, 11, 13, 14,
A Sense of Peace	3, 6, 8, 15
Social Satisfaction	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Local Community Activities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15
Social Behavior of Users	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15,

Source: Data processed, 2025

## 4.2. Discussion

The results of a systematic review of various literature show that urban park facilities not only play a role as a physical element to complement the space, but also as a trigger for the formation of complex social experiences for their users. Various studies confirm that the existence of facilities designed with attention to the local context can encourage the emergence of emotional bonds, a sense of comfort, and social involvement of the community in public spaces. In the framework of contextuality, the social aspect is key to understanding how urban parks function as a shared space that brings together diverse user backgrounds while fostering the value of togetherness. The further discussion on how the supporting factors of social aspects in the context of urban park facilities are as follows:

### 4.2.1. A Sense of User Ownership

Users' sense of ownership of urban parks is a key component in the construction of public spaces that not only function physically, but also support social cohesion. In the study of urban sociology, a sense of belonging is defined as the psychological and affective attachment of individuals or groups to a space, which affects the way they interact and behave in it. When users feel that a city park is part of their "space", they will show a proactive attitude towards the utilization, social supervision and maintenance of the space (Pusparani et al., 2025; Wu et al., 2025).

Social cohesion in the context of urban parks refers to the emergence of mutual trust, equal access, and collective involvement in public space activities. A sense of belonging becomes a driving element that reinforces this dimension as it creates an even sense of responsibility and involvement. When park design reflects the needs and preferences of users contextually, especially marginalized groups, a sense of acceptance and inclusivity is formed, which in turn increases social connectedness among users. Gardens are no longer neutral spaces, but social spaces that strengthen community networks (Suciyanı & Oktavia, 2020; Wu et al., 2025).

The affective aspect of the sense of belonging is also reinforced through the design and atmosphere of the park that supports positive perceptions. Elements such as green landscapes, comfortable lighting, and natural acoustic atmospheres are able to evoke positive emotions that build users' attachment to the park. This attachment is the basis for the emergence of a sense of belonging that strengthens collective social identity and expands the range of social interaction between individuals in public spaces (Ayuni & Syafitri, 2024; Pusparani et al., 2025).

The participation of users in the planning and management process of the park also plays an important role in deepening a sense of ownership. Community involvement in the co-development of urban parks has been proven to encourage a sense of collective responsibility and expand the space for collaboration between social groups (Suciyanı & Oktavia, 2020; Wu et al., 2025). This is in line with the finding that positive perceptions of park facilities that support social interaction are directly related to increased residents' sense of belonging to the park and an increase in the intensity of social cohesion in the space (Ayuni & Syafitri, 2024).

Overall, the user's sense of ownership not only represents an emotional attachment to urban parks, but also becomes an important instrument in shaping and strengthening social cohesion. When users feel that public spaces are part of themselves and their communities, urban parks transform into productive, inclusive, and resilient social spaces. Therefore, strengthening the sense of ownership needs to be the main strategy in the contextual design of urban parks that favor the formation of a solid social network in the midst of urban dynamics.

#### 4.2.2. A Sense of Peace

In the context of socially sustainable urban spatial development, a sense of peace has a crucial role in forming a positive relationship between humans and their built environment. A sense of calm refers to the psychological state of the user who feels safe, peaceful, and free from pressure, both physically and mentally, when in a public space. In an urban environment full of stress, pollution, and the fast-paced rhythm of life, the existence of urban parks as interstitial spaces that provide tranquility is becoming increasingly important. Urban parks designed with the dimension of tranquility in mind not only meet ecological and recreational needs, but also serve as social sanctuaries that support mental health, emotional balance, and the quality of relationships between individuals (Fithri et al., 2021; Jin et al., 2024; Zou, 2025).

The tranquility in urban parks does not arise by chance, but is the result of the contextualization of spatial and social elements that are integrated with the character of the local community. Elements such as dense vegetation, water flow, soft lighting, and the existence of quiet zones are able to reduce the user's stress level and create an atmosphere that supports self-reflection. The presence of natural visual and auditory elements, such as the sound of water gurgling and the green color of trees, significantly increases positive emotional responses as well as lowers the psychological tension of urban communities (Jin et al., 2024; Zou, 2025). In this context, tranquility is not only seen as an architectural output, but rather as a multisensory experience born from a dialogue between the user and the urban space (Fithri et al., 2021).

Furthermore, a sense of calm is also correlated with perceptions of safety and social order. A garden that provides visual comfort, adequate night lighting, and openness of view can enhance the perception of security, which indirectly forms a sense of collective serenity. This is closely related to the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) approach, where the design of an environment that is open, neat, and easy to supervise by other users is able to prevent deviant behavior. The sense of serenity gained from these visual-spatial aspects can cumulatively increase trust between citizens, strengthen social bonds, and form stronger social cohesion in urban communities (Ayuni & Syafitri, 2024; Zou, 2025).

In conclusion, a sense of serenity in urban parks is an important social aspect rooted in contextual and user experience-oriented spatial design. By creating a park that is able to reduce psychological distress, strengthen the perception of safety, and stimulate emotional connectedness, city governments and landscape designers indirectly create spaces that support the social cohesion of the community. In the long run, the tranquility presented by urban parks will become a strong foundation for the formation of an inclusive, mentally healthy, and socially empowered urban community.

#### 4.2.3. Social Satisfaction

A sense of social satisfaction is an important dimension in evaluating the success of city park facilities as a public space that is able to meet the interaction and social involvement needs of its users. This social satisfaction is rooted in the user's perception of the quality of the facilities and the social experience created within the park, which ultimately affects the frequency of visits and the level of community participation in social activities (Ayuni & Syafitri, 2024; Khutami & Adharina, 2024). Previous studies have confirmed that social satisfaction is closely related to the existence of comfortable and representative spaces for creative communities to express themselves and build close knit social networks (Aguspriyanti et al., 2024; Astiandi & Hidayah, 2024; Hastita, 2022; Seanders et al., 2025; Suciyani & Oktavia, 2020).

Furthermore, social satisfaction in urban parks does not only depend on the physical quality of the facility, but also on its ability to provide inclusive and safe spaces for social

interaction for various groups of people, including vulnerable groups (Astiandi & Hidayah, 2024; Hastita, 2022; Seanders et al., 2025; Wu et al., 2025; Zou, 2025). The diversity of social functions such as meeting rooms, children's play areas, and sports facilities facilitate diverse interactions and enrich the social experience of users (Dwi et al., 2025; Pusparani et al., 2025). This supports the finding that urban parks that are able to provide facilities with good quality and diversity of social functions will significantly increase user satisfaction (Oktavia et al., 2020; Pusparani et al., 2025).

In addition to physical aspects and social functions, psychological and cultural dimensions also determine the sense of social satisfaction. The existence of urban parks as spaces that reflect local identity and accommodate cultural activities and public participation can strengthen users' emotional attachment to parks (Hastita, 2022; Seanders et al., 2025; Wu et al., 2025). The harmonious integration of visual and auditory elements is able to influence positive emotional responses, thereby improving the user experience and overall sense of satisfaction (Jin et al., 2024).

Thus, the sense of social satisfaction in urban parks is the result of a complex interaction between physical, social, and cultural aspects that synergistically shape the user experience. High social satisfaction not only contributes to improving the quality of social interaction and community cohesion, but also strengthens the sustainability of the park's function as a socially inclusive and healthy space. Therefore, urban park planning needs to adopt a holistic approach that integrates the quality of facilities, diversity of social functions, and cultural sensitivity to achieve maximum social satisfaction of users.

#### **4.2.4. Local Community Activities**

Facilitating local community activities within urban parks is a crucial element in supporting the role of parks as dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable social spaces. The provision of adequate facilities and responsive management tailored to community needs is key to creating spaces that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also functional for fostering social interaction and public participation (Aguspriyanti et al., 2024; Astiandi & Hidayah, 2024). Infrastructure such as multipurpose areas, open stages, gazebos, flexible playgrounds, and pedestrian-friendly pathways enables a variety of social and cultural activities to take place smoothly and also enhance accessibility and strengthen the role of urban parks as centers of community interaction (Asmuliany & Amalia, 2024; Ayuni & Syafitri, 2024; Khutami & Adharina, 2024; Suciyan & Oktavia, 2020).

Urban parks designed with consideration of the characteristics of local communities are more successful in accommodating creative community activities, social functions, and educational purposes (Hastita, 2022; Suciyan & Oktavia, 2020). Beyond the physical aspects, community involvement in park management and decision-making reinforces a sense of ownership and collective responsibility toward public spaces. This not only increases the effectiveness of existing facilities but also motivates communities to maintain and sustainably utilize the park (Astiandi & Hidayah, 2024; Zou, 2025).

Furthermore, providing structured and diverse programs and activities is an effective strategy for facilitating community engagement across different age groups and social backgrounds. Such activities enrich interaction, strengthen social cohesion, and encourage higher visitation rates to urban parks (Dwi et al., 2025; Pusparani et al., 2025). At the same time, integrating visual and aural elements into park design such as vegetation arrangements, natural lighting, and soundscapes has been shown to influence user behavior and foster a pleasant atmosphere conducive to social participation (Jin et al., 2024).

Facilitating community activities in urban parks also has positive psychological impacts, particularly in terms of enhancing mental well-being, reducing stress, and creating a sense of

peace in the midst of dense urban environments. Moreover, social interactions fostered through shared activities in green open spaces improve public satisfaction with the social function of parks. Thus, urban parks function not only as public spaces but also as centers for strengthening social capital and improving urban community quality of life. (Ayuni & Syafitri, 2024; Fithri et al., 2021; Khutami & Adharina, 2024).

Overall, the success of facilitating local community activities in urban parks depends on the synergy between responsive physical design, active community engagement, and the provision of diverse and inclusive programs. This approach ensures that urban parks meet the socio-cultural needs of communities while reinforcing the sustainability of parks' social functions as vital public spaces.

#### **4.2.5. Social Behavior of Users**

Studies on urban park user behavior in various regions highlight that community-oriented activities such as regular gatherings, cultural performances, group sports, and environmental education programs can strengthen users' emotional attachment to parks while also expanding social networks among residents (Astuti et al., 2025; Jin et al., 2024; Suciyan & Oktavia, 2020). Beyond increasing visitation frequency, these activities foster dialogue and collaboration that contribute to the growth and resilience of local communities (Asmuliany & Amalia, 2024; Seanders et al., 2025). Designing urban parks that are responsive to local needs and socio-cultural characteristics, while incorporating opportunities for public participation in management, further enhances residents' sense of ownership and social responsibility toward these shared spaces (Wu et al., 2025; Zou, 2025).

Equally important are the psychological benefits associated with community activities in urban parks, which make a substantial contribution to residents' mental and social well-being. Organized social programs provide opportunities for individuals to access support networks, alleviate feelings of isolation, and cultivate a sense of safety and tranquility (Fithri et al., 2021; Khutami & Adharina, 2024). Intensive social interaction nurtured through these activities also strengthens essential forms of social capital, enabling communities to better address urban challenges such as social fragmentation and environmental stress (Ayuni & Syafitri, 2024; Hastita, 2022).

Taken together, local community activities in urban parks serve not merely as sources of recreation but as vital mechanisms for realizing the social potential of parks as inclusive and sustainable public spaces. Achieving this vision requires planning and management processes that actively involve communities from the earliest stages, ensuring that park design and functionality align with local socio-cultural contexts while supporting meaningful participation (Seanders et al., 2025; Wu et al., 2025). Such an approach resonates with the principles of participatory design and community-based management, which have proven effective in reinforcing social cohesion and sustaining the broader social functions of urban parks.

## **5. Conclusion**

The results of the study show that social aspects such as the user's sense of ownership, sense of peace, social satisfaction, local community activities, and social behavior of users are crucial factors in supporting the functioning of urban parks as a public space that is inclusive, adaptive, and socially sustainable. Each of these social aspects has been proven to be closely related to the existence and quality of park facilities that are contextual to the needs of users and local conditions. A sense of ownership grows through community participation in park planning and management, a sense of tranquility is influenced by the spatial and atmospheric

qualities of the environment, while social satisfaction reflects the suitability between facilities and social interaction needs. Local community activities demonstrate the importance of parks as participatory spaces, while the social behavior of users marks the social dynamics formed by spatial configuration and the availability of supporting facilities.

Thus, it can be concluded that the social contextuality and the quality of urban park facilities complement each other in creating an inclusive, resilient public space, and strengthening the social cohesion of urban communities. This study adds knowledge by introducing a new conceptual framework that integrates the social dimension and urban park facilities based on the 2020–2025 literature review, especially in the urban context of Indonesia which is still rarely comprehensively studied. These findings provide a conceptual basis for urban planners and policymakers to develop urban park design principles that are more oriented towards social needs and user behavior. In the future, follow-up studies are suggested to quantitatively test the relationship between social aspects and the elements of these facilities, as well as formulate evaluative indicators that can measure the success of urban parks from the perspective of social sustainability.

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